



CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services

Michael G. Oxley, Chairman

For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Contact: Peggy Peterson at 226-0471

Statement
Chairman Michael G. Oxley
Committee on Financial Services

July 10, 2001

Analyst Independence

"In the financial services industry, Merrill Lynch is leading the way to independence of its financial analysts. The new policy is an important step toward increasing the reliability of information for investors. As the Committee continues its examination of these issues, I encourage the industry to continue reviewing current policies with the goal of fostering investor confidence in analysts' recommendations."

#####